(b) whether any initiative has been taken in this regard; and

(c) if so, what preparations are going on?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (c) The Government has extended an invitation to all those who have strayed from the paths of togetherness to come forward for talks within the four corners of out Constitution. The United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) has not yet come forward for peace talks within the parameters indicated.

PM's meeting with opposition leaders on cross border Terrorism

790. SHRI SK. KHABIR UDDIN AHMED: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has recently met the leaders of Opposition parties in view of situation arising out of cross-border terrorism;

(b) if so, the details of the suggestions given by the leaders of the Opposition parties; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) The Prime Minister has been regularly consulting with the leaders of various opposition parties on major national and international issues including cross-border terrorism. The Prime Minister's exchange of views and ideas with these leaders has been aimed at developing a broad national consensus on these issues.

International Observers for J&K Legislative Assembly Election

791. SHRI KULDIP NAYYAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government agrees to have international observers in Jammu and Kashmir at the time of election to the Legislative Assembly; and

(b) what steps Government are taking to hold free and fair elections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) Conduct of Assembly election in the States and matters related thereto, including appointment of observers, is a subject under the exclusive domain of the Election Commission of India in terms of Article 324 of the Constitution of India and Article 138 of the Constitution of J&K.

(b) Government, on its part is determined to providing appropriate support to the Election Commission to help it ensure a free, fair and credible election to the State Assembly. The State Government has already been advised to provide security cover to leaders of various political parties commensurate with the threat perception in each case. Further the State Government has been asked to address the security concerns of the common people as well as leaders of political parties to encourage them to interact freely. At the same time State Government has been advised to undertake sustained and focused demonstrative anti-terrorist strikes against the terrorist and other hardcore pro-Pak fundamentalists to blunt their capabilities to disrupt the election process. Efforts are also on for providing additional CPMFs, despite constraints and demands from elsewhere in the country, to assist it for the smooth, peaceful and fair conduct of the Assembly elections in J&K.

Civil reform package for Jammu and Kashmir

792. DR. AKHILESH DAS:
SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU):

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has been thinking of scaling down miltary deployment on Indo-Pak borders along Jammu and Kashmir and taking to civil reforms in Jammu and Kashmir; and

(b) if so, what is the civil package contemplated for Jammu and Kashmir and the steps taken and being taken to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (d) Induction/ deinduction of Armed Forces at the borders is done keeping in view the security requirements. At the present juncture, scaling down of military deployment on the Indo-Pak border along J&K is not under consideration.